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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D.C.



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5 June 1956

INTELLIGENCE NOTES

1. France - Right of Asylum Declaration

US Embassy Paris reports that a French declaration reaffirming the right of asylum will be forthcoming within a few days. The declaration will be in the form of an answer to a planted question from the floor of the National Assembly. The Embassy suggests that a US comment of approval follow the French statement. (US Embassy Paris 5756, 4 June, Confidential)

2. Italy - Visit to Moscow

The American Embassy Rome believes that Premier Segni and Foreign Minister Martino will feel forced to visit the USSR by fall and CIA agrees that they will probably go. The Soviets have also been assured that an Italian parliamentary group will visit the USSR this summer. (US Embassy Rome 4075, 1 June, Confidential)

3. USSR - Molotov's "Resignation"

The British Foreign Office sees the following trends as a result of Molotov's resignation and the promotion of Shepilov to Foreign Minister: (1) USSR-Satellite relations will increasingly stress the appearance of voluntary cooperation within the bloc. (2) The economic offensive aimed at swinging uncommitted Asian countries toward the Soviet bloc will be intensified. (3) "Peaceful coexistence" will be used to penetrate the West while efforts at penetration of the bloc will be countered. (4) Soviet foreign policy will be more effectively integrated in the political, economic and propaganda fields. (5) Men such as Gromyko and Malik will lose their influence. The Foreign Office thinks that Shepilov will merely reflect Khrushchev, that he is more ambitious than able. Ambassador Bohlen believes that Shepilov's appointment was a last-minute decision. Evidence for this belief is that Shepilov and his wife had applied for French transit visas en route to Egypt. The visas were issued 1 June. The Ambassador commented that Molotov appeared in excellent spirits at a reception immediately after the announcement of his resignation and appeared to be glad to be out of the Foreign Office. CIA comments that Molotov has not been in actual control of foreign affairs for over a year. (US Embassy London 5594, 4 June, Confidential; US Embassy Moscow 2731, 4 June;

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4. USSR - Cult of Personality

US Embassy Moscow reports from two different sources that the Central Committee of the CPSU has sent a letter halting any further discussion of Stalin in party meetings. Ambassador Bohlen believes these reports are probably true and points out that the attack on Stalin has now served two purposes--it has assured the party that Leninist principles of collective leadership are being followed and that one-man rule will not be repeated, and it has cleared the way for a revision of Stalinist interpretations of history, economics, philosophy and other fields. The Ambassador sees some danger to the party if unlimited discussion is allowed to continue, but notes that revision of old theories is continuing in academic journals. (US Embassy Moscow 2729, 4 June, Secret)

5. Malaya - Rubber to Communist China

The Singapore government announced on 4 June that it would consider applications to export "reasonable quantities" of rubber to Communist China. (US Consulate General Singapore 1175, 4 June, Unclassified)

6. Cambodia - Officers Training

US Ambassador McClintock reports that the Cambodians have again requested US aid in paying for the training of Cambodian military officers in France. The Ambassador took this opportunity to suggest to the Cambodian Foreign Minister that in the future officers receiving training outside Cambodia do so in the US and indicated that such arrangements for future officer training might well precede consideration of the current Cambodian request. US Embassy Paris has taken a very dim view of abolishing training in France and is concerned over the potential effects on French-US relations. US Embassy Paris points out such action would be viewed by the French as confirmation of their fear that the US is deliberately trying to eliminate French influence in Cambodia. (US Embassy Phnom Penh 1618, 31 May; US Embassy Paris 5716, 1 June, Confidential)

7. Japan - Atomic Radiation

Two crewmen of a Japanese fishing vessel which passed 1,660 miles northeast of Bikini were reported to have shown a marked drop in white corpuscle count. On the day of the explosion the ship's Geiger counter showed 45 counts; two days later it was 1,250. TASS claims in a Peking dispatch that radioactive fall-out from the recent US Pacific tests killed 10 million goldfish in Japanese breeding nurseries. (FBIS, 5 June Official Use Only)

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